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Legislators report snowmobile trails in great condition

Munising – After the first day and almost 200 miles behind them, State Sen. Jason Allen of Traverse City and other legislators agree that snowmobiling in the Upper Peninsula is outstanding and awaits all enthusiasts.

“It is very exciting to experience the fun and thrill of snowmobiling in the eastern Upper Peninsula,” Allen said. “Traveling by snowmobile is a great way to experience all that northern Michigan has to offer.”

Allen is joined by House Speaker Rick Johnson of LeRoy and state Rep. Tom Casperson of Escanaba as part of an Upper Peninsula tour via snowmobile. Their travels will begin and end in Sault Ste. Marie, go as far as Copper Harbor and cover almost 1,000 miles during six days.

“I’m particularly impressed with how well groomed the trails are,” Casperson said. “This trip has been a wonderful reminder of the winter wonderland we have in the Upper Peninsula.”

Allen and fellow legislators traveled through Brimley, Raco, Paradise, and the Tahquamenon Falls area over the course of the day, ending in Munising last night. Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, Allen is experiencing firsthand the major economic impact snowmobiling and tourism have on northern Michigan.

“I have really enjoyed being in the Upper Peninsula with my friends Senator Jason Allen and Representative Tom Casperson,” Speaker Johnson added. “I am already looking forward to coming back up here again.”

Next week, Jan. 11-17, 2004, marks Snowmobile Safety Week. Michigan has more than 6,000 miles of groomed trails offering exciting terrain of forest and field to both residents and visitors. With almost 300,000 registered snowmobiles, safe and responsible driving is essential for every enthusiast on a sled.

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Editor’s note: A photo from the trip is available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Allen/Allen.htm>